

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of regulating sharing of a multimedia object file by a device, the method comprising:

using the device to perform at least a portion of one or more of the following acts

registering usage information for the multimedia object file upon sharing the multimedia object file;

transmitting the registered usage information to allow billing of a user of the device for an amount in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object file;

recording user profile information for the user, the user profile information ~~associated with at least one of~~ including browsing behavior of the user ~~and to~~ identify a multimedia interest of the user; and

transmitting the recorded user profile information to allow crediting of a bill for the amount with a sum, upon receipt of the recorded user profile information together with the registered usage information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device arranged for sharing of a multimedia object, comprising:

file sharing means for sharing the multimedia object file with other devices;

identifying means for obtaining an identifier for the multimedia object file being shared, the identifying means comprising a fingerprint calculator to obtain the identifier by computing a fingerprint for at least a portion of the multimedia object file;

accounting means for registering usage information for the identified multimedia object file;

reporting means for transmitting the registered usage information to a third party when the registered usage information meets a predetermined criterion, to allow afterwards, billing for sharing of the multimedia object file in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object file, wherein the device is to inhibit sharing of the multimedia object file in response to the reporting means failing to transmit the registered usage information to the third party; and

user profile maintenance means for maintaining user profile information ~~associated with at least one of~~ including browsing behavior of the user to identify ~~and~~ a multimedia interest of the user.

4.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, in which the usage information being registered for the multimedia object file comprises a number of times the multimedia object file is being shared.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, in which the usage information being registered for the multimedia object file comprises an indication of a ~~length~~ duration of media content associated with the multimedia object file.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, in which the predetermined criterion comprises a predetermined number of times the multimedia object file has been shared.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, wherein the reporting means is to transmit at least a portion of the user profile to the third party.

12. (Canceled)

13. (~~Canceled~~) ~~A machine-readable medium containing instructions that when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method of regulating sharing of a multimedia object by a device, the method comprising:~~

~~registering the usage information for the multimedia object upon sharing of the multimedia object, the registering of the usage information including obtaining an identifier from metadata associated with the multimedia object;~~

~~transmitting the registered usage information to a third party when the registered usage information meets a predetermined criterion;~~

~~billing a user of the device for an amount in accordance with the registered usage information for the multimedia object;~~

~~recording user profile information for the user, the user profile information associated with at least one of browsing behavior of the user and a multimedia interest of the user; and~~

~~crediting a bill for the amount with a sum, upon receipt of the recorded user profile information together with the registered usage information.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A device configured to share a multimedia object file, the device comprising:

a file sharing module configured to share the multimedia object file with other devices;

a fingerprinting module including a fingerprint calculator configured to obtain an identifier for the multimedia object file by computing a fingerprint for at least a portion of the multimedia object file;

an accounting module configured to register usage information for the multimedia object file, based on the identifier;

a reporting module configured to transmit registered usage information to a third party based on the registered usage information meeting a predetermined criterion to allow billing for sharing of the multimedia object file in accordance with the registered usage information, the device configured to inhibit sharing of the multimedia object file in response to the reporting means failing to transmit the registered usage information to the third party; and

a user profile maintenance module configured to maintain user profile information associated with ~~at least one of~~ including browsing behavior of the user ~~and to identify~~ a multimedia interest of the user.

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14, wherein the registered usage information includes a number of times the multimedia object file has been shared.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14, wherein the registered usage information includes an indication of ~~a length~~ duration of media content associated with the multimedia object file.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14, wherein the predetermined criterion includes a predetermined number of times the multimedia object file has been shared.